

Candidate Questionnaire Delta County Joint School District 50 Board of Directors September, 2023

1. Describe the qualities, qualifications and experience you have that can give voters confidence that you should be a member of the Delta County School Board? Please be specific.

I am a mother, grandmother, business owner and a Delta County citizen.

2. Have you had any prior experience as a member of a group dealing with a controversial issue? How did you deal with it?

I have spent 4 years on the DCSD Board and in that time, I fought the extremist state legislature, Governor's office and the partisan elected State School Board.

3. Historically, school board elections have been politically non-partisan. Recently some political parties have endorsed school board candidates. a. Do you feel political parties should be involved in endorsing school board candidates? Why or why not? b. What role, if any, should partisan politics play in the make-up of the school board? c. Do you feel that political extremism constitutes a threat to public education in the District? Why or why not? d. How would you feel about being endorsed by a political party? Would you accept the endorsement?

A) Political parties should have the same freedom of expression as anyone else.

B) They should listen to the citizenry and bring the ideas they've collected back to the Board for discussion – simply because it is partisan does not make it wrong.

C) As stated, prior – the extremist state legislature along with the Governor's office and State Board of Education is hard at work – it is up to the local citizens of our County to bring their ideals to our school district to make sure they are acting in the best interest of the local communities.

D) If the party's political platform met the actions I have presented in my past 4 years as a school board member, then yes, I would accept the endorsement.

4. Describe your understanding of the role of the board and the superintendent.

State Constitution gives local school boards authority to set policy for their school district, this is the primary responsibility of the board. It is then the Superintendent who is a direct hire of the board, to know and implement the board policy.

5. Describe the standards of conduct you would expect to prevail at a school board meeting.

A civil discussion and proper following of Robert's Rules of Order.

6. Our form of government is a representative democracy. a. In serving as a school board member, how would you vote where, in your judgment, the right thing is different from popular public opinion b. What does a representative democracy mean to you? c. To whom should a school board member be most accountable? Voters? Students and teachers?

A) No matter public opinion – right is right and wrong is wrong.

B) An elected person in a represented democracy is beholden to the citizens they represent and is placed there to make the decisions they feel most appropriate.

C) To the district they represent which is made up of the students, parents, guardians, teachers, etc. that make up the community.

6. Decisions of the Delta County School Board may affect the interests of individual communities in Delta County, requiring balancing the interests of those communities against the overall interests of the entire school district. a. How could you balance the interests of individual communities against the overall interests of the entire school district? b. What can you, as a school board member, do to ensure all students are prepared for their future?

A) The School Board is elected by the entire county. A student in Paonia Elementary School is not worth more or less than a student in any other Elementary School in DCSD. I have made it a point to bring equality across the district – there is still more work that needs to be done to keep this headed in that direction and I plan to continue that fight.

B) Assure that teachers have the tools and resources they need to advance our students beyond their time with us in DCSD.

7. Do you see any need for change in any existing policy for PreK-12 education? An example would be the influence of social media.

Setting policy is the primary task of a school board and is to be followed by administration, staff, students, parents and community members, as well as the Board itself; changes are constantly happening to keep policy in line with the district needs along with state and federal laws. DCSD has a 3-step policy review process which ensures a full review and Monthly Policy Review Meetings are held to assure these changes meet those needs.

8. After reading and considering the seven principles RTB feels should guide political conduct in Western Colorado, if there is one or more principles you do not endorse, please identify them and

I have read the RTB principals – I would not endorse #5 regarding extremists. Labeling someone as an extremist is a way of dividing our community. Simply because one person or group does not adhere to other perspectives in my opinion does not make them extremists. Differences in opinion often make the best recipe for conversation and can even lead to unity in many ways.